

Appendix F – DNR Management Unit Boundaries

DNR Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division (FMFM)

The Mission of Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management Division is to provide for the protection, integrated management and responsible use of a healthy productive forest and mineral resource base for the social, recreational, environmental and economic benefit of the people of the State of Michigan. This includes direct day-to-day management of Michigan's State Forest.

Operational management of the State Forest is largely conducted at the FMU level (Figure F1). There are 15 FMUs. Management planning is also conducted on an ecoregional basis, following political boundaries that roughly follow the ecoregional boundaries. There are three ecoregions that coincide with the area containing the State Forest System: the Northern Lower Peninsula; the Eastern Upper Peninsula; and the Western Upper Peninsula.

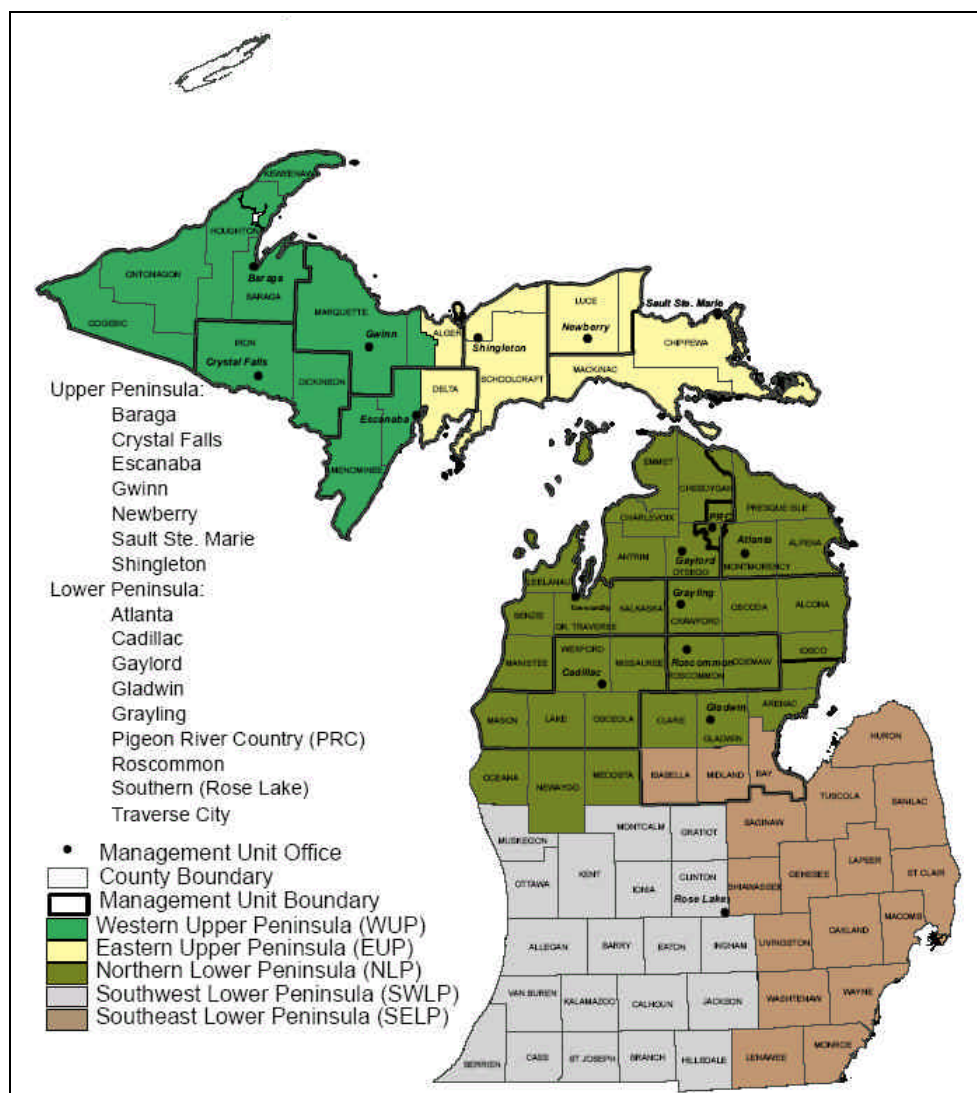


Figure F1. FMFM State Forest Management Units and Ecoregions.

DNR Wildlife Division

The mission of the Wildlife Division is to enhance, restore and conserve the state's wildlife resources, natural communities and ecosystems for the benefit of Michigan's citizens, visitors and future generations. Wildlife personnel have the primary responsibility for the management and regulation of bird and mammal populations and their habitats but also have the lead responsibility for rare species which include plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles and fish. There are eight Wildlife Division management units (Figure F2), five of which contain State Forest lands.

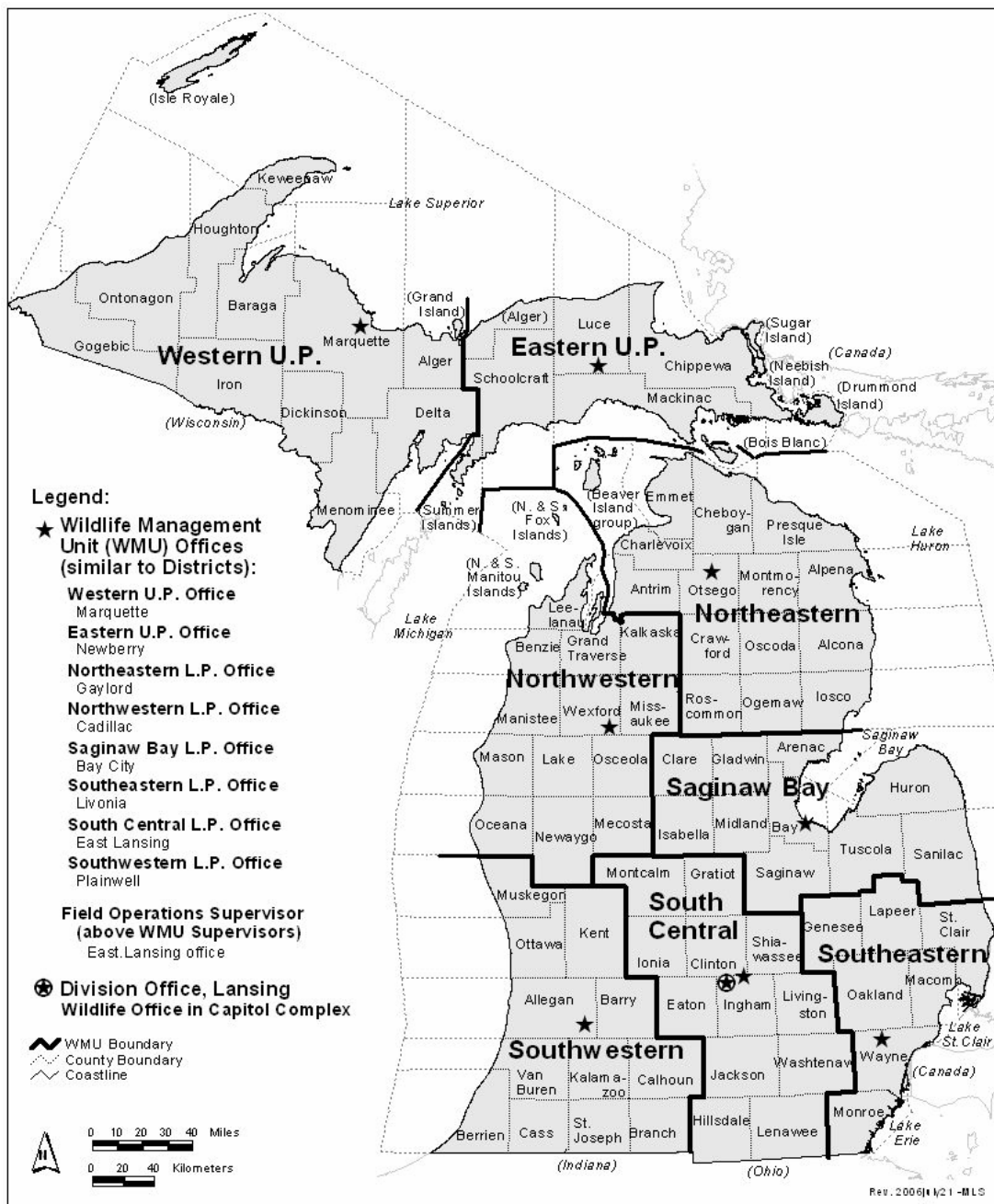


Figure F2. Wildlife Division Management Units.

DNR Fisheries Division

The mission of the Fisheries Division is to protect and enhance all forms of aquatic life and the habitats upon which they depend, and to provide for wise use of these resources for benefit of the people of Michigan.

The Fisheries Division is responsible for the management of all fish species, all other aquatic organisms and their habitats across the broad spectrum of all ownerships in the state. Because landscape processes are integrally linked with aquatic habitat and because of the biotic interdependency between upstream and downstream habitats, Fisheries Division is organized on the basis of basins and watersheds. There are four Great Lakes basins (Erie, Huron, Michigan, and Superior) and each of these basins is divided into Fisheries management units that are organized on the basis of watersheds boundaries (Figure F3).

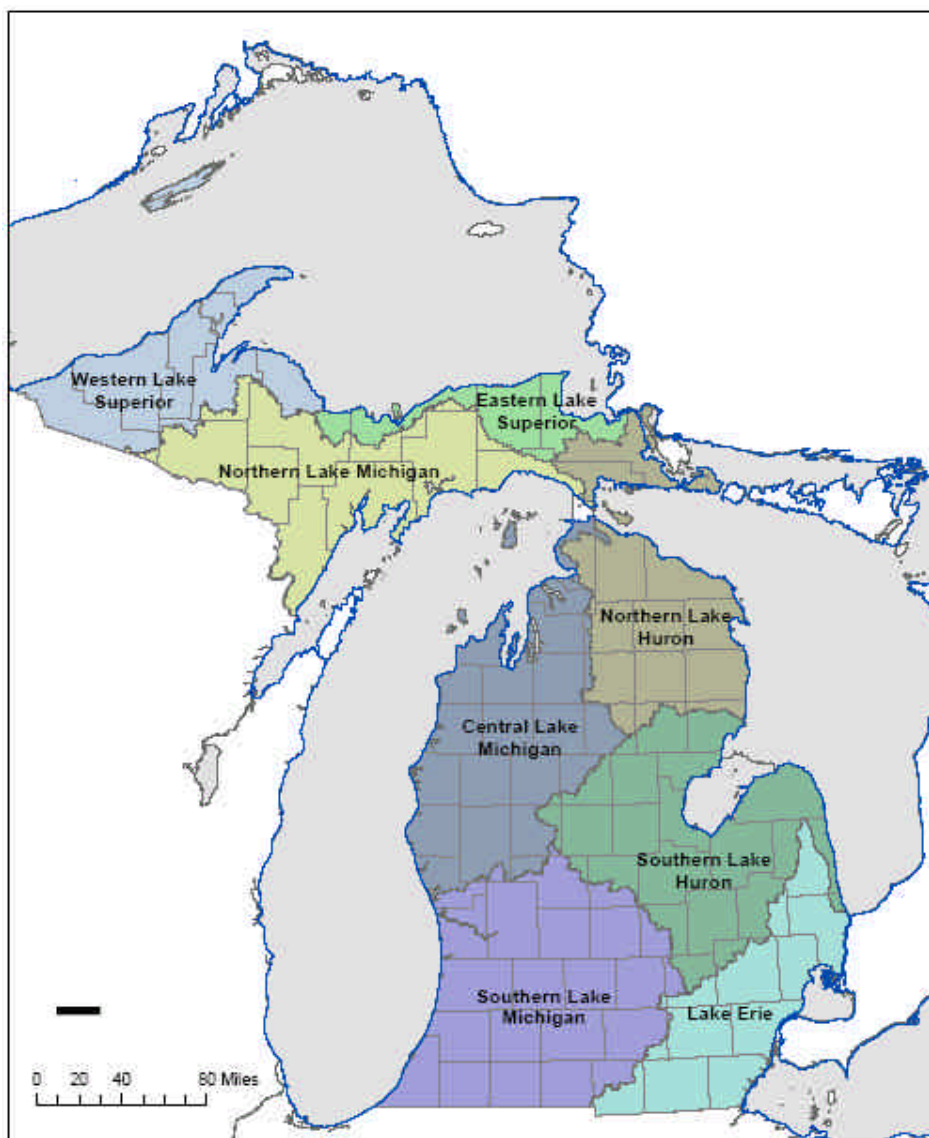


Figure F3. Fisheries Division Management Units.

DNR Parks and Recreation Division

The mission of Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) is to acquire, protect, and preserve the natural, historic and cultural features of Michigan's unique resources and provide public recreation and educational opportunities. The division is organized into eight management districts (Figure F4)

The PRD is the primary land manager of the State Park system, which consists of 97 parks covering 265,000 acres (Figure 1.2). PRD also owns and administers 15 Great Lakes public mooring facilities and approximately 738 inland waters boat-launching facilities statewide, and has helped fund the development of approximately 445 other inland waters boat launch sites operated by local units of government and other Divisions within the Department.

DNR Law Enforcement Division

The mission statement of the Law Enforcement Division is to protect Michigan's natural resources and the environment, and the health and safety of the public through effective law enforcement and education.

Law Enforcement Division is responsible for enforcement of fish and wildlife laws, and other enforcement activities to protect fish and wildlife resources and habitat, and to promote and maintain Michigan's natural resources base, economy, and quality of life. Other enforcement activities include: 1) environmental protection, enforcement, and investigation; 2) habitat protection (e.g. protection of forests, wetlands, sand dunes, lakes and streams, and parks); 3) protection of recreation facilities and persons who recreate on DNR lands and facilities; 4) recreational safety education and enforcement; 5) protection of threatened and endangered species (plant and wildlife); and 6) oversight of those who seek to alter the environment. The Law Enforcement Division is organized into 10 Districts (Figure F5).

Federal Land Ownership

The major Federal lands in Michigan are principally comprised of the National Forests, National Parks, and National Wildlife Refuges, which are managed by the USDA Forest Service, the USDI Park Service and the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service respectively. The largest land holdings are the three National Forests, which total over 2.9 million acres. There are three major National Parks totaling approximately 674,000 acres and National Wildlife Refuges total over 112,000 acres.

These Federal lands are located adjacent to or in close proximity to extensive areas of state-owned lands (Figure 1.2), mostly in the northern two-thirds of Michigan. Effectively holistic management of lands on a landscape scale requires cooperation between State and Federal land managers. Interactions range from broad, long-range landscape-level planning (e.g. species recovery plans), through coordination of recreation infrastructure and policies (e.g. trail designation and use), to short-term tactical projects (e.g. fire prevention and suppression).



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Figure F5. Law Enforcement Division Districts.

Private Lands

As of 2003, private individuals own 45 percent of all timberland in the state. Cooperative management with private ownerships within the matrix of public ownership is critical for the effective management of resources, such as timber, game and non-game wildlife habitat, aquatic habitats and recreation. To this end the DNR is a cooperative partner in a number of initiatives that focus upon the sustainable management of private land resources.

There are forty-nine land trusts and conservancies located throughout Michigan. The organizations hold tile or conservation easements on thousands of acres containing rare and unique habitats and natural communities. In turn, the DNR also holds conservation easements upon lands owned by conservancies.

Corporate lands have been traditionally associated with those primarily owned by the forest products industry. A recent trend has seen a significant divestiture of timberland by the

forest products industry and a corresponding increase in timberland under the ownership of timberland investment management organizations (TIMOs). The majority of these corporate lands are enrolled in the Commercial Forest Program.

The Commercial Forest Program provides a property tax reduction to individual or corporate private landowners as an incentive to retain and manage forestland for long-term timber production. Landowners in this program agree to provide public access for hunting, trapping and fishing and to develop, maintain and manage the land as commercial forest through planting, natural reproduction, or other silvicultural practices. There are approximately 2.2 million acres listed in this program under the ownership of nearly 1300 private landowners. Landowners include private individuals, clubs, forest industry, and other corporations.

The DNR has developed a Forest Stewardship Program that assists landowners with the development of Forest Stewardship Management Plans for their private forestlands. The Michigan Forestland Enhancement Program (FLEP) is an important tool that augments the Forest Stewardship Program by providing financial assistance for encouraging the long-term sustainability of non-industrial private forestlands.

Finally, the DNR Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) helps private landowners create and manage habitat for species that are rare and/or declining by providing advice, management plans, and funding to qualified individuals and organizations throughout the state.